

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/032,309

Examiner

Le Nguyen

Applicant(s)

GOLDTHWAITE ET AL.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment of 5/15/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-17,19-32 and 34-44.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 6/28/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Examiner's Amendment and Reasons for Allowance

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jerome Schaefer on 6/28/06.

3. The application has been further amended as follows:

Claims 2, 18 and 33 have been cancelled.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate claim 2 as follows:

1. A method for displaying elements from a user's digital history store on a timeline, comprising:

selecting a time period of interest from a plurality of time periods on the timeline;

and

displaying from the user's digital history store on the timeline elements associated with events, people, places and things relating to the time period of interest, wherein each event, person, place and thing has a unique icon associated therewith. therewith;

displaying in a navigation region a root navigation region displaying icons for events, people, places and things; and

in response to selecting one of the events, people, places and things icons in the root navigation region, displaying a cluster of one of events, people, places and things corresponding to the selection and relating to the time period of interest.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

~~32~~. A method according to claim ~~21~~, wherein said displaying includes placing emphasis on elements of the cluster based upon at least one of (1) recency of activity associated therewith, (2) frequency of activity associated therewith and (3) user preferences.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

~~43~~. A method according to claim ~~32~~, wherein said placing emphasis includes at least one of changing the size of the icon, changing a contrast associated with the icon and positioning the icon according to a direction of emphasis.

Claim 5 has been amended as follows:

~~54~~. A method according to claim ~~21~~, further including:
in response to selecting one of the elements of the cluster, displaying a sub-cluster of elements of which the cluster is comprised, wherein the sub-cluster of elements relate to the time period of interest.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

~~65~~. A method according to claim ~~21~~, wherein selecting in the navigating region includes displaying in a path display portion a currently navigated path by the user from root region to individual elements, including intervening selected clusters.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

~~7~~6. A method according to claim ~~2~~1, further including:
dragging an element from the navigation region to a filter region; and
in response to the dragging, filtering the elements displayed in the timeline
according to the dragged element.

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

~~8~~7. A method according to claim ~~2~~1, further including:
inputting text to a query input portion; and
in response to the inputting, filtering the elements displayed in the timeline
according to the elements mapped to the text.

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

~~13~~12. A method according to claim ~~42~~11, wherein the scoping mechanism is a
scroll bar.

Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate claim 18 as follows:

~~17~~16. A computer readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of
computer-executable modules for displaying elements from a user's digital history store
on a timeline, the computer executable modules comprising:

a selecting mechanism for selecting a time period of interest from a plurality of
time periods on the timeline; and

a display mechanism that displays events, people, places and things directly
relating to the time period of interest from the user's digital history store on the ~~timeline~~.
timeline wherein said display mechanism further displays in a navigation region a root
navigation region displaying icons for events, people, places and things; and

in response to selecting one of the events, people, places and things icons in the root navigation region, said display mechanism displays a cluster of one of events, people, places and things corresponding to the selection and relating to the time period of interest.

Claim 19 has been amended as follows:

~~40~~17. A computer readable medium according to claim ~~48~~16, wherein said display mechanism places emphasis on elements of the cluster based upon at least one of (1) recency of activity associated therewith, (2) frequency of activity associated therewith and (3) user preferences.

Claim 20 has been amended as follows:

~~20~~18. A computer readable medium according to claim ~~40~~17, wherein said display mechanism at least one of changes the size of the icon, changes a contrast associated with the icon and positions the icon according to a direction of emphasis.

Claim 21 has been amended as follows:

~~24~~19. A computer readable medium according to claim ~~48~~16, further including:
in response to selecting one of the elements of the cluster, said display mechanism displays a sub-cluster of elements of which the cluster is comprised, wherein the sub-cluster of elements relate to the time period of interest.

Claim 22 has been amended as follows:

~~22~~20. A computer readable medium according to claim ~~48~~16, wherein in response to selecting in the navigating region, said display mechanism displays in a

path display portion a currently navigated path from root region to individual elements, including intervening selected clusters.

Claim 23 has been amended as follows:

~~23~~21. A computer readable medium according to claim ~~48~~16, further including:
a filter mechanism, whereby in response to dragging an element from the navigation region to a filter region, the display mechanism filters the elements displayed in the timeline according to the dragged element.

Claim 24 has been amended as follows:

~~24~~22. A computer readable medium according to claim ~~48~~16, further including:
a filter mechanism, whereby in response to text input to a query input portion, the display mechanism filters the elements displayed in the timeline based on the input text.

Claim 25 has been amended as follows:

~~25~~23. A computer readable medium according to claim ~~47~~16, further including:
a user preference input mechanism for receiving user preference information for specifying aspects of said displaying by the display mechanism.

Claim 26 has been amended as follows:

~~26~~24. A computer readable medium according to claim ~~47~~16, wherein in response to a user selection, said display mechanism displays additional information about the displayed icons.

Claim 27 has been amended as follows:

~~27~~25. A computer readable medium according to claim ~~47~~16, wherein the time

period of interest is selected from one of a range of at least one hour a range of at least one day, a range of at least one week, a range of at least one month and a range of at least one year.

Claim 28 has been amended as follows:

~~28~~26. A computer readable medium according to claim ~~47~~16, wherein said selecting mechanism includes a scoping mechanism for scoping to a time period of interest.

Claim 29 has been amended as follows:

~~29~~27. A computer readable medium according to claim ~~28~~26, wherein the scoping mechanism is a scroll bar.

Claim 30 has been amended as follows:

~~30~~28. A modulated data signal carrying computer executable instructions output as a result of the execution of the plurality of computer-executable instructions of the computer readable medium of claim ~~47~~16.

Claim 31 has been amended as follows:

~~31~~29. A computing device comprising means for carrying out the plurality of computer-executable instructions of the computer readable medium of claim ~~47~~16.

Claim 32 has been amended to incorporate claim 33 as follows:

~~32~~30. A computing device for having a display for displaying elements from a user's digital history store on a timeline, comprising:

a selecting mechanism for selecting a time period of interest from a plurality of time periods on the timeline; and

a display mechanism that displays events, people, places and things directly relating to the time period of interest from the user's digital history store on the ~~timeline~~. timeline wherein said display mechanism further displays in a navigation region a root navigation region displaying icons for events, people, places and things; and

in response to selecting one of the events, people, places and things icons in the root navigation region, said display mechanism displays a cluster of one of events, people, places and things corresponding to the selection and relating to the time period of interest.

Claim 34 has been amended as follows:

3431. A computer-readable medium computing device according to claim 3330, wherein said display mechanism places emphasis on elements of the cluster based upon at least one of (1) recency of activity associated therewith, (2) frequency of activity associated therewith and (3) user preferences.

Claim 35 has been amended as follows:

3532. A computer-readable medium computing device according to claim 3431, wherein said display mechanism at least one of changes the size of the icon, changes a contrast associated with the icon and positions the icon according to a direction of emphasis.

Claim 36 has been amended as follows:

3633. A computer-readable medium computing device according to claim 3330, further including in response to selecting one of the elements of the cluster, said display

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mechanism displays a sub-cluster of elements of which the cluster is comprised, wherein the sub-cluster of elements relate to the time period of interest.

Claim 37 has been amended as follows:

~~37~~34. A ~~computer-readable-medium~~ computing device according to claim ~~33~~30, wherein in response to selecting in the navigating region, said display mechanism displays in a path display portion a currently navigated path from root region to individual elements, including intervening selected clusters.

Claim 38 has been amended as follows:

~~38~~35. A ~~computer-readable-medium~~ computing device according to claim ~~33~~30, further including:

a filter mechanism, whereby in response to dragging an element from the navigation region to a filter region, the display mechanism filters the elements displayed in the timeline according to the dragged element.

Claim 39 has been amended as follows:

~~39~~36. A ~~computer-readable-medium~~ computing device according to claim ~~33~~30, further including:

a filter mechanism, whereby in response to text input to a query input portion, the display mechanism filters the elements displayed in the timeline based on the input text.

Claim 40 has been amended as follows:

~~40~~37. A ~~computer-readable-medium~~ computing device according to claim ~~32~~30, further including:

a user preference input mechanism for receiving user preference information for

specifying aspects of said displaying by the display mechanism.

Claim 41 has been amended as follows:

~~4138~~. A ~~computer-readable medium~~ computing device according to claim ~~3330~~, wherein in response to a user selection, said display mechanism displays additional information about the displayed icons.

Claim 42 has been amended as follows:

~~4239~~. A ~~computer-readable medium~~ computing device according to claim ~~3230~~, wherein the time period of interest is selected from one of a range of at least one hour, a range of at least one day, a range of at least one week, a range of at least one month and a range of at least one year.

Claim 43 has been amended as follows:

~~4340~~. A ~~computer-readable medium~~ computing device according to claim ~~3230~~, wherein said selecting mechanism includes a scoping mechanism for scoping to a time period of interest.

Claim 44 has been amended as follows:

~~4441~~. A ~~computer-readable medium~~ computing device according to claim ~~3230~~, wherein the scoping mechanism is a scroll bar.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art made of record fails to anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention. Specifically, the prior art fails to teach, in combination with the remaining elements:

a method for displaying elements from a user's digital history store on a timeline elements associated with events, people, places and things relating to the time period of interest wherein each event, person, place and thing has a unique icon associated therewith and comprising selecting a time period of interest from a plurality of time periods on the timeline and in response to selecting one of the events, people, places and things icons in a root navigation region, displaying a cluster of one of events, people, places and things corresponding to the selection and relating to the time period of interest as recited in claims 1, 17 and 32.

Although Moran et al. and Wolf et al. teach a substantial amount of the claimed matters, Moran et al. and Wolf et al. fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Parker et al. (US 6,996,782) teach using digital objects organized according to a histogram timeline.

Jun et al. (US 20010020981 A1) teach a method of generating synthetic key frame and video browsing system using the same.

Lau et al. (US 6,525,746 B1) teach an interactive video object processing environment having zoom window.

Hasegawa et al. (US 6,333,752 B1) teach an image processing apparatus, image processing method, and a computer-readable storage medium containing a computer program for image processing recorded thereon.

Newman et al. (US 6,154,600) teach a media editor for non-linear editing system.

Mansour et al. (US 6,034,683) teach a time line for desktop metaphor.

Inquires

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lê Nguyen whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4068**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached at (571) 272-4063.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic
Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LVN
Patent Examiner
June 28, 2006